Calling Handloom weavers as craftsmen

3957. DR. JAGANNATH MISRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased state:

(a) whether Government have recently undertaken any census of handloom weavers in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details and the objective thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to consider handloom as a craft and the handloom weavers as craftsmen;

(d) if so, whether the handloom weavers are likely to be benefited by the new designations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms has been conducted through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCEAR), New Delhi. The data is under process. The Census has been undertaken with the objective to compile data base on handlooms and powerlooms.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Textile Mill workers in Gujarat

3958. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to rehabilitate the textile mill workers who have become jobless due to closure of mills in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat have requested the Central Government to re-train such displaced textile workers;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on the State Government's request; and

(e) whether Government have extended any assistance to the State Government in terms of money; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Government has set up the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers of textile units/mills, or entire division thereof, which have permanently closed. Relief under the Scheme is paid at the rate of 75%, 50% and 25% ot wage equivalent, in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, respectively.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Industry have received two proposals from the Government of Gujarat for assistance from the National Renewal Fund (NRF) for restructuring of the Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd. and Area Regeneration Scheme for closed textile mills under liquidation. The Area Regeneration Scheme envisages measures including taking over of 19 closed textile mills through a State Government Ordinance; payment of legal dues of employees together with assets restructuring and promotion of local enterprise; retraining of jobless employees; utilisation of assets of closed mills, etc.

The amount of assistance sought from the NRF for the above two proposals is Rs. 96.83 crore and Rs. 168.37 crore, respectively. Assistance from NRF is available only for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Enterprises and schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers.

No NRF assistance has been released to Government of Gujarat against the above two proposals. However, under the counselling, retraining and re-deployment scheme, NRF assistance is being provided through Nodal Agencies for counselling,